

Applicant : James E. Doyle et al.
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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application and entry of the above-identified amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the substitute sheets of drawings filed on October 29, 2002 have been approved. Applicants have enclosed herewith corrected drawings including the proposed amendments filed on October 29, 2002.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, indicating "it is not clear how Applicants' invention functions with the thrust bearing and washer being the only holding connection for the motor assembly to the base . . ."

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the thrust bearing and washer extend between the base and the drive screw such that forces applied to the base are compressably transmitted to the drive screw through the thrust bearing and washer. Claim 1 has also been amended to positively recite the drive screw. With reference to Fig. 3 of the present application, and the specification at page 3, lines 17-21, the thrust bearing 30 and washer 32 transmit force

- between the lower side 23 of base 20 and the drive screw 26.

Claim 10 has also been amended to recite that the thrust bearing and washer extend between the base and the drive screw such that forces applied to the base are compressably transmitted to the drive screw through the thrust bearing and washer. Claim 10 has also been amended to recite that the drive screw has a connector at one end thereof axially securing the drive screw to the motor assembly. With reference to Fig. 3 of the present application, and page 3, lines 24-27, the end 26' of drive screw 26 is rotatably received in an aperture 27 of gear box housing 36, and is rotatably and vertically held within aperture 37 by fastening secure 29 and washer 31.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite a thrust bearing engaging the base and the driven element such that forces applied to the base are compressably transmitted to the driven element through the thrust bearing and washer. As discussed above in connection with claim 1, this aspect of the present invention is clearly shown in the drawings as filed, and described in the specification.

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In view of the amendments discussed above, Applicants submit that the pending claims, as amended herein, met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and do, in fact, reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Because the proposed amendments are formal in nature, Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed amendments.

Applicants note that Baker 4,602,176 teaches straps 41, and does not disclose or suggest a thrust bearing and washer as recited in the amended claims.

Applicants have made a concerted effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. DOYLE ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
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Date

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